



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

January 16, 2010

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary  
U. S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-0008

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of North Carolina's 1.5 million public school students, I am proud to submit this application for the phase I awards of the Race to the Top grant. North Carolina has long been a national leader in educational innovation, and I am confident that our comprehensive \$469.5 million plan will enable us to build on our foundation of success and to continue working aggressively to improve North Carolina's public schools.

In addition to my signature, the signatures of the State Board of Education Chair and the State Superintendent — all of our state's Local Education Agencies signed on to participate in Race to the Top. That means 100 percent of superintendents, local school board chairs and the presidents of the local teacher associations have been and will continue to be integral partners in Race to the Top. In addition, six of North Carolina's charter schools and the N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice School also have agreed to participate.

The unanimous signing of the Memoranda of Agreement demonstrates the steadfast commitment we have from all stakeholders, a level of collaboration that is critical as we move North Carolina's public schools forward. North Carolina's application, as required, assesses the state's current education reform efforts and presents a comprehensive plan for improving student outcomes in four areas:

- Adopting nationally and internationally benchmarked standards and assessments;
- Developing data systems that measure success and improve instruction;
- Supporting effective teachers and leaders; and
- Turning around low-performing schools.

On Wednesday, January 14, I unveiled my education initiative, called *Career and College — Ready Set Go*. This initiative refocuses North Carolina's public schools on a single goal: "Every child — no matter where he or she lives in NC — must graduate



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from high school with what it really takes to succeed in a career, in a two- or four-year college or in technical training.” As a part of that effort, North Carolina became the first state in the nation, according to the National Governor’s Association, to require all of its higher education governing boards to adopt the national common core Career and College Ready standards, moving beyond the Race to the Top requirement for K-12 to adopt those standards.

I believe North Carolina has developed an aggressive plan that holds every school accountable for every child’s success. It has been a phenomenal effort on the parts of many individuals, education and business leaders to develop a consensus around this initiative. I believe that through the Race to the Top application process, North Carolina has once again confronted the challenge of producing a globally competitive workforce. Furthermore, I believe our proposal will serve as an instrument of positive educational change not just for North Carolina but for the United States of America.

I am honored to submit this application for Race to the Top.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bev Perdue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bev Perdue